



DISASTER NEWS

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MARYLAND BUSINESSMAN WINS NATIONAL SBA AWARD

Paul Facchina recognized for efforts after La Plata Tornado

BALTIMORE, MD – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that Paul Facchina, a Maryland business owner, has been named the national winner of this year's Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contribution to Disaster Recovery by a Private-Citizen.

This award is presented annually and recognizes Mr. Facchina's efforts in assisting small businesses following the tornado that affected southern Maryland. Mr. Facchina will accept his prestigious award as part of SBA's National Small Business Week celebration that will be held in Orlando, Fla. May 19-21.

"This award is given in recognition of Mr. Facchina's tireless efforts and commitment to the recovery of La Plata's business community following the worst tornado to hit Maryland in 75 years," said SBA Area Director William E. Leggiero, Jr. "His role in the recovery of the Charles County business district can not be overstated. Mr. Facchina's relentless determination and generosity was a primary factor in the survival of dozens of small businesses affected by this disaster."

As owner and CEO of Facchina Construction Company, Inc., Mr. Facchina has been involved in numerous large-scale construction projects since founding the company in 1987. His company recently completed such high-profile projects as the construction of the new parking facility at BWI Airport and the expansion of the Georgetown University Law Campus. In March 2004, Mr. Facchina was awarded the National Merit Award from the Association of Builders and Contractors in recognition of his contributions to the demolition and reconstruction of the Pentagon following the September 11th attacks.

In April 2002, with many La Plata area businesses struggling for survival after the tornado, Mr. Facchina approached town officials with a plan to construct a "temporary Town Center" in an effort to save the downtown business community. Using his own resources, Facchina cleared a 1.7 acre parcel, developed an infrastructure and delivered 21 fully-appointed modular offices to be occupied by displaced businesses at no cost. Within 11 days, two dozen affected businesses were back in operation in what became known as "Facchina Village."

Today, largely as a result of Mr. Facchina's selfless and altruistic actions, the La Plata business district has risen from the destruction, much like the Phoenix for which this SBA award has been named.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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